



## *Chapter 8* **Job Centers**

### **Cluster 2 Asset Profile**

#### **Primary Employment /Job Center Issues**

The major issue of concern in Cluster 2 related to job centers is the need for job training and preparedness. The community recognizes the requirements for successful employment and has focused on how programs and facilities can be made available to area residents in order that they can become employed in occupations that pay “livable” wages.

Technical training is not seen to exist within the Cluster 2 area. It is felt that there are a number of existing facilities, primarily churches and public schools, which can be made available to those who require job training. It is seen that the businesses, public agencies, and residents within the community need to partner in order to conceive and support new programs. It is believed that the youth and young adult education and training that is needed can be provided within the community. Technical training geared towards brains, not brawn, was seen as most important.

Another major concern was pre-employment counseling. Many persons who are trained have difficulty in securing employment because they are unfamiliar with employer requirements. A strongly supported suggestion to alleviate this problem was the institution of co-op programs that would familiarize persons with employment requirements.

Transportation and child care is also identified as an obstruction to successfully accessing training and employment. It is also recognized that non-traditional training and employment opportunities relying on computer linkages somewhat alleviate the need for transportation and child care.

#### **Potential Changes**

Within Cluster 2, there has been a long and steady decline of the Seven Mile/Gratiot area. The fear in the community is that this decline will continue and impact on the Eight Mile/Gratiot area and the Kelly/Moross area. In the Eight Mile/Gratiot area, Wood Motors, an anchor in the community, has left the area. On the positive side, many people recognize the potential for new commercial development along Gratiot and believe that the new Rite Aid Pharmacy in the Gratiot/Connor area is an indication that a market exists for new commercial development.

## Labor Force

The labor force of the cluster is profiled as follows:

	Cluster 2 Number	Cluster 2 Percent	Detroit Total Number	Detroit Total Percent
Agriculture	49	1	307	-
Manufacturing	1277	15	57200	18
Trans./Comm./Utilities	550	6	24571	8
Wholesale Trade	216	3	14032	4
Retail Trade	2118	25	29750	10
Fin./Ins./Real Estate	260	3	19319	6
Services	3362	43	136922	44
Public Administration	396	4	30981	10

## Existing Job Centers

Commercial job centers are located on Gratiot, East Eight Mile Road, Kelly Road, Whittier, and Seven Mile Road. Industrial job centers are limited within the cluster and primarily located near the Hoover/Eight Mile area. As noted earlier, job training facilities are almost non-existent within the cluster. Map A19 shows these areas.

	Cluster 2 Number	Cluster 2 Percent	Detroit Total Number	Detroit Total Percent
Agriculture	15	2	78	1
Manufacturing	44	7	931	9
Trans./Comm./Utilities	9	1	378	4
Wholesale Trade	35	6	934	9
Retail Trade	242	40	2945	29
Fin./Ins./Real Estate	25	4	649	6
Services	226	37	3819	38
Public Administration	12	2	312	3

## Education and Training Programs

Primary and secondary education facilities, both public and private, exist within the cluster. Higher education is available in nearby Wayne County Community College and Macomb Community College. The four-year colleges that exist within the City of Detroit are fairly accessible by public transportation. Training facilities do not exist to any degree within the cluster. Of the considerable number of persons trained and placed in 1996-1997 by the City of Detroit, 16 % of Detroit placements are within Cluster 2.

**Major Employment Facilities**

The major employment facility in the area is Saratoga Hospital, a division of St. John's Hospital.

**Substandard Buildings**

Selected substandard buildings are primarily located along the major thoroughfares and need to be rehabilitated. If major development is to take place, its location should be dictated by not only available, substandard buildings but by market forces.

**New Job Centers**

A large number of vacant commercial buildings are located along the main thoroughfares of the cluster. It is assumed that many of these facilities are obsolete and need to be demolished in order to assemble sufficient land for new commercial centers. The locations most often sited are the Gratiot/Eight Mile and Gratiot/Seven Mile areas. Additionally, a number of small businesses exist within the cluster. These businesses need to be supported by the community.

**Increased Training**

The potential for increased training is primarily supported by a number of available religious and educational facilities. Training for employment with "livable" wages is a priority for the community. It is believed that programs modeled after Focus: Hope, but aimed at a broader range of occupations, should be instituted within the cluster.